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A. A. Phelps to S. J. May.

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64

Dear Brother May.

PHELPS
MSS.

Both of your communications in respect to Bridgman were received, but I wrote nothing to Mr. Eddy because I supposed nothing of the kind was expected unless I could go there to lecture as proposed, & that I could not do; nor did I send any pamphlets, because I thought they were to be sent gratuitously, & of such we had none to send. If I am wrong in regard to the pamphlets, please inform me.] In your last (I have mislaid it, & cannot now refer to it) you said something about continuing the connexion of the Liberator with the society next year, & expressed the opinion I think, that we must do it. To this, I say, never. Such a connexion as now exists ought never to exist in any case, in reference to any paper, be the editor who he may. If Mr. Garrison will make a specific & definite pledge that the paper shall be devoted exclusively to abolition, & that the Board of Managers shall have the same control over its editorial department, that the Ex. Com., at New York have over the Emancipator, I can give my consent, but on no other ground. I do not know why Mr. G. should have more liberty & indulgence in this matter than Joshua Leavitt. And indeed, such has been his course in regard to Fitch & Lovone, that I would not trust him so far. It may seem strange to you that I should talk in this style, I will therefore say, that my opinion in regard to the impropriety of the connexion in question, was formed & expressed in the Board, before any of the things to which I now refer occurred. What these things are, I cannot now specify, &

length. I will merely say that denouncing them as "traitors" to be "drummed out of corps", "as apostates" "hypocrites" &c; declaiming that their whole movement is the creature of "sectarianism", "clerical jealousy" &c. &c. will never do. The truth is, they are not traitors, nor apostates, nor hypocrites, whatever else they may be in the matter. Great dupes I admit they have been, nor is sectarianism the spring of action with them, any more than with him. Indeed the truth in the case is just this. He in connection with his abolitionism has thrown out one way & another, this & that peculiar view of his own, on other questions, in opposition to their views. He has thus run across their views. They I admit have been too sensitive, & been provoked too easily. Nevertheless he, so far as there ~~is~~ is sectarianism in the matter, is the aggressor. As such he has first thrust his sectarianism into the teeth of theirs, & now forsooth when their sectarianism starts up in self defense & cries hands off, "Oh it's all sectarianism"! nonsense. He first steps on their toes, & when they cry get off, Oh, says he, stepping on peoples toes, stepping on peoples toes! Look at the last Liberator. There, you find three whole columns of the very anti-minister, & anti-government stuff that has made us all our trouble. Now such things may not run across your views, but they do across mine; & they are no part of abolition, nor are they "kindred" to it - at least not to my abolition. Now for one I shall not help to continue such a paper, but who will edit it, as the organ of the Mass. A. S. Socie^t. If it is to be the organ of the socie^t, it must be, & being so, must be exclusively devoted to abolition, & under the control of the boards. & I add further that any other connection will be the signal for the withdrawal of myself, & many others

from the society. I would not ask such a connexion as now exists for myself, nor would I tolerate it for Joshua Leouitt, nor shall I for Brother Garrison. I have written this for yourself only. Remember me affect to Mr. M.

Yours truly

A. A. Phelps

